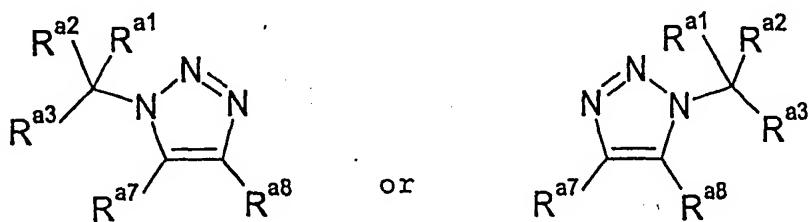


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel without prejudice claims 11-14 and 16-48.

Please amend the claim as follows:

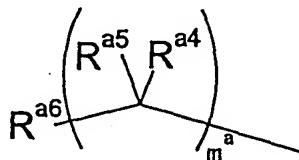
1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a compound of the formula:



wherein

R^{a1} and R^{a2} are each a hydrogen atom, a substituted hydroxy, a substituted thiol, a substituted amino, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl;

R^{a3} is a group of the formula:



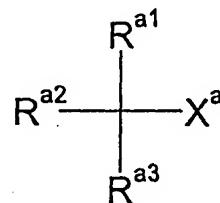
wherein R^{a4} and R^{a5} are each a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydroxy, an optionally substituted thiol, an optionally substituted amino, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl, or R^{a4} and R^{a5} in combination form oxo,

R^{a6} is an optionally substituted aromatic group, and

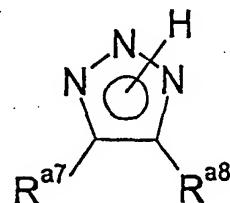
m^a is an integer of 0 to 10; or

two or three from R^{a1}, R^{a2} and R^{a3} form an optionally substituted ring, together with the adjacent carbon atom; and

R^{a7} and R^{a8} are each a hydrogen atom, a halogen, an optionally substituted hydroxy, an optionally substituted thiol, an optionally substituted amino, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an acyl, which method comprises reacting a compound of the formula:



wherein X^a is a leaving group and other symbols are as defined above, or a salt thereof, and compound of the formula:



wherein each symbol is as defined above, or a salt thereof,

- (1) in a secondary or tertiary alcohol in the presence of a base, or
- (2) in the absence of a base.